

[7th February 1924]

(iii) the number of police outposts in Malabar, and, if so, by how many ; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there are complaints that even the number of police stations and outposts that exist in the district at present is inadequate ?

A.—(a) There are no such proposals with special reference to Malabar. The Government have, however, on the suggestion of the Police Committee, directed an examination of the possibility of reducing the number of stations and outposts throughout the Presidency as a whole.

(b) The Government have received no such complaints.

Hindus forcibly converted during the Mappilla rebellion.

220 **Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:** Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the estimated number of (1) Hindus who were forcibly converted by the Mappillas during the rebellion and (2) those that were reconverted to their old faith after peace was restored ;

(b) knowing that the reconverted Hindus are generally treated with special vengeance by the fanatic Mappillas, whether Government have taken any precautionary steps to create a feeling of safety among the former class of people ; if so, what ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a Maulana representing some Moslem organization at Poona forcibly converted a Tiyya woman of Nilambur and her five children after bringing them over to Calicut ; if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to punish him ?

A.—(a) The Government have already stated in this Council that they have no accurate information and for obvious reasons have purposely refrained from collecting it.

(b) The Government are fully alive to the facts of the situation and have taken and will continue to take what action they find necessary and possible in individual cases. It would be impossible in a reply to a question of this kind to set forth their whole policy in the matter.

(c) If the hon Member is referring to an incident which was reported in the newspapers in July 1922, the Government's information was that it was not a case of forcible conversion.

Abolition of certain Military Police stations in Malabar.

221 **Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:** Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has proposed to abolish some of the Military Police stations in Malabar ; if so, which ;

(b) whether in consequence of this the strength of military policemen employed at present will be reduced ; if so, by how much ; and

(c) whether the district authorities have been consulted in the matter and whether they have agreed to the proposal ?

A.—(a) There is no proposal at present to abolish any of the Military Police stations in Malabar.

(b) & (c) The questions do not arise.